

Serial No.: 10/510,440
Atty. Docket No.: P70107US0

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 31, 2005, has been carefully reviewed and Applicant notes with appreciation the identification of allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 1-10 have been amended and new claims 11-20 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 12, 14 and 18 are independent. In view of the new claims and the following remarks, allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicant has corrected informalities noted in the specification and the abstract upon review, including the addition of headings and the removal of references to the claims. The text added to pages 1-3 corresponds with the text of the claims previously referenced and thus no new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By this Amendment, Applicant has corrected the informalities, placing claims 1-10 into conformity with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,390,494 to

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Gignoux et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,697,631 to Ratzek et al. The Examiner stated that claims 5, 7, 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 to substantially include the limitations of claim 5. Therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter.

New claims 12, 14 and 18 substantially represent the subject matter of claims 7, 8 and 9, respectively, each being rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of underlying claim 1, and therefore claims 12, 14 and 18 are also in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 2-11, 13, 15-17, 19 and 20 are also in condition for allowance as claims properly dependent on an allowable base claim and for the subject matter contained therein.

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With this amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the present application can receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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